

CLAIMS:

1. A hydrocarbon bioremediation system for removing hydrocarbons from a body of water, comprising:
 - (a) a floater adapted to float in or on the surface of the body of water, and
 - (b) microbes associated with the floater, adapted to digest the hydrocarbons.
2. A hydrocarbon bioremediation system for removing hydrocarbons from a body of water, comprising:
 - (a) a floater formed of a porous polymeric foam and adapted to float on the surface of the body of water, and
 - (b) microbes within the floater, adapted to digest the hydrocarbons.
3. A system as recited in Claim 2, wherein the microbes are in the form of a pellet.
4. A system as recited in Claim 3, wherein the floater has an opening, and the pellet is located in an opening in the floater.
5. A system as recited in Claim 2, wherein the microbes are attached to powder which is pressed into a pellet.
6. A system as recited in Claim 5, wherein the powder is a clay mineral.
7. A system as recited in Claim 5, wherein the powder is bentonite clay.
8. A system as recited in Claim 2, wherein the microbe is a natural ubiquitous hydrocarbon-oxidizing microorganism for use in removing hydrocarbons and organic materials from soils and fresh and salt water by natural oxidative pathways.

9. A system as recited in Claim 2, wherein the microbe is the Oppenheimer Formula listed on the USEPA NCP Product Schedule.

10. A system as recited in Claim 2, wherein the foam is open celled and adapted to absorb hydrocarbons.

11. A method for removing hydrocarbons from a body of water, comprising:
- (a) placing microbes, adapted to digest the hydrocarbons, into a floater formed of a porous polymeric foam and adapted to float in or on the surface of the body of water,
 - (b) placing the floater containing the microbes into a body of water containing hydrocarbons,
 - (c) allowing the hydrocarbons to penetrate the floater and to contact the microbes, and
 - (d) allowing the microbes within the floater to digest the hydrocarbons.

12. A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein the microbes are in the form of a pellet.

13. A method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the floater has a slit, and the pellet is located in a slit on the floater.

14. A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein the microbes are attached to powder which is pressed into a pellet.

15. A method as recited in Claim 14, wherein the powder is a clay mineral.

16. A method as recited in Claim 14, wherein the powder is bentonite clay.

17. A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein the microbe is a natural ubiquitous hydrocarbon-oxidizing microorganism for use in removing hydrocarbons and organic materials from soils and fresh and salt water by natural oxidative pathways.

18. A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein the microbe is the Oppenheimer Formula listed on the USEPA NCP Product Schedule.

19. A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein the foam is open celled and adapted to absorb hydrocarbons.

20. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the microbes are mixed into the polymeric foam prior to being foamed.